IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method comprising the steps of:

accessing an electronic-program-guide database storing electronic-program-guide data based on an input retrieval keyword;

accessing a dictionary database based on an input retrieval keyword;

extracting relevant-keyword information relevant to said input retrieval keyword from a the dictionary database; and

accessing an electronic-program-guide database that stores electronic-program-guide data based on the input retrieval keyword and the extracted relevant-keyword information; and

downloading only desired electronic-program-guide data based on the extracted relevant-keyword information from the electronic-program-guide data stored in said electronic-program-guide database and the input retrieval keyword.

2.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein said dictionary database stores words to be used as retrieval keywords, and relevant keywords relevant to said words to be used as retrieval keywords.

3.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword is the name of a person, the relevant-keyword information is one of or a combination of a nickname of said person, the full name of said person, the given name of said person, the name of a group relevant to said person, and another well-known name of said person.

4.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword is a word written in hiragana characters and/or katakana characters used in Japanese writing, the relevant-keyword information includes a word written in kanji characters used in Japanese writing or in characters relevant to said kanji characters.

5.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword corresponds to one of misused character keywords stored in a misused keyword database which are caused by possible input mistakes, only the relevant-keyword information is used to perform retrieval.

6.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval keyword and the relevant-keyword information are interrelated to each other.

7.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when part of a word to be used as the retrieval keyword is input,

said word to be used as the retrieval keyword and the relevant-keyword information are extracted

from a retrieval-keyword database storing previously input keywords in a predetermined order.

8.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method

according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword belongs to a particular genre, the

relevant-keyword information belongs to a genre different from said particular genre.

9.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method

according to claim 8, wherein when the particular genre is relevant to cooking, the different

genre is relevant to cooks.

10.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method

according to claim 8, wherein when the particular genre is relevant to place names, the different

genre is relevant to one of or a combination of neighboring city names, country names, and

regional names.

11.   (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

comprising:

a data server including an electronic-program-guide database storing program

information of an electronic program guide;

~~a client module comprising access means for accessing said electronic-program-guide database and input means for inputting a retrieval keyword for retrieving the program information; and~~

a dictionary database for storing retrieval keywords and relevant keywords

relevant to said retrieval keywords; and

a client module comprising:

input means for inputting said retrieval keywords;

access means for accessing said dictionary database based on said retrieval

keywords;

extracting means for extracting relevant-keyword information relevant to

said retrieval keywords;

access means for accessing electronic-program-guide database based on

retrieval keywords and extracted relevant-keyword information; and

downloading means for downloading only electronic-program-guide data

based on the extracted relevant-keyword information and the input retrieval keyword.

~~wherein relevant-keyword information relevant to the retrieval keyword input by~~

~~said client is extracted from said dictionary database, and selective retrieval by accessing only~~

~~program information related to the extracted relevant-keyword information and the input~~

~~retrieval keyword is performed.~~

12.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the client side.

13.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the data server side.

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14.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client downloads and stores the program information.

15.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client accesses a necessary part of said data server via a routing server storing information on routes to the parts of said data server.

16.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein:

said dictionary database stores misused keywords caused by possible input mistakes; and

when the input keyword corresponds to one of the misused keywords, only the relevant-keyword information is used to perform retrieval.

17.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein when the retrieval keyword is a word written in hiragana characters and/or katakana characters used in Japanese writing, the relevant-keyword information includes a word written in kanji characters used in Japanese writing or in characters relevant to said kanji characters.

18.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database stores previously input keywords so that

the input keywords are included in the relevant-keyword information, and the stored keywords

are arranged in order of frequency of use.

19.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to movie

information.

20.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to drama

information.

21.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to place names.

22.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to the names of

dishes.

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